

Message Text

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40

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 SAB-01 SAM-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /107 W

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R 300934Z MAR 74

FM USINT DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 269

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 0320

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY

SUBJECT: REPORT CONCERNING ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW PARA-
MILITARY FORCE

1. I HAVE HEARD FROM A FAIRLY RELIABLE SOURCE
THAT THE REGIME IS NOW IN THE PROCESS OF ORGANIZING
A NEW 30,000 MAN "SPECIAL FORCE" TO BE HEADED BY
CAPT. ADNAN ASAD, PRESIDENT ASAD'S NEPHEW. THE
FORCE IS ALLEGEDLY BEING DRAWN UP FROM MEN FROM
THE ALAWITE REGION IN THE NORTH WHICH IS PRESI-
DENT ASAD'S HOME AREA. ITS FUNCTION IS SAID TO
BE AS A BACKSTOP TO THE 40,000 MAN "REGIMENT OF
DEFENSE" WHICH IS HEADED BY THE PRESIDENT'S
BROTHER AND WHICH IS LOCALLY DESCRIBED AS THE MAIN
SOURCE OF POWER FOR THE PRESIDENT IN THE DAMASCUS
REGION.

2. COMMENT: I SUPPOSE NO SYRIAN REGIME CAN EVER
FEEL CONFIDENT OF ITS POWER BASE. I AM SURE THAT
THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE OF THIS REGIME WHICH
DESPITE PRESIDENT ASAD'S OBVIOUS EFFORTS OVER THE LAST
TWO YEARS TO COURT THE SUNNI MAJORITY STILL HAS
A LONG WAY TO GO. IF THIS REPORT IS TRUE THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF YET ANOTHER CORPS OF ALAWITE
MAMELUKES WILL NOT HELP HIM TO CONVINCE THE
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SYRIANS THAT HE IS INDEED THE LEADER OF THEM ALL

AND NOT ONLY OF HIS HETERODOX SECT.
SCOTES

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NNN

Message Attributes

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